



NEWS RELEASE

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WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UPDATE: PROJECT CEASEFIRE
TWO KC FELONS SENTENCED
FOR ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF FIREARMS

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that two Kansas City, Mo., men were sentenced in federal court today, in separate and unrelated cases, for being felons in possession of a firearm. Today's sentencings are part of Project Ceasefire, the district's ongoing anti-crime initiative.

* **Refugio T. Monarco**, 27, of Kansas City, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Nanette K. Laughrey this afternoon to two years and nine months in federal prison without parole.

On Oct. 21, 2003, **Monarco** pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm. By pleading guilty, **Monarco** admitted that he was in possession of a Smith and Wesson 9 mm pistol and 24 rounds of ammunition on Feb. 28, 2003. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone who has been convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Monarco** has a 1995 criminal felony conviction for criminal discharge of a firearm.

Monarco was originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Aug. 21, 2003, in Kansas City.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Linda L. Sybrant. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

* **Delmar L. Hatcher, Jr.**, 33, of Kansas City, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Nanette K. Laughrey this morning to one year and three months in federal prison without parole.

On Oct. 22, 2003, **Hatcher** pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm. By pleading guilty, **Hatcher** admitted that he was in possession of a North American Arms .22

caliber revolver on Jan. 31, 2003. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone who has been convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Hatcher** has a 1985 and a 1988 criminal felony conviction for unlawful use of a weapon, two 1991 criminal felony convictions for possession of a controlled substance and unlawful use of a weapon, a 1994 and 2002 criminal felony conviction for possession of a controlled substance.

Hatcher was originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on March 5, 2003, in Kansas City.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Paul S. Becker. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Project Ceasefire

Project Ceasefire, launched in October 1999, is a cooperative initiative by federal and local law enforcement and the Kansas City Crime Commission that targets for federal prosecution persons who unlawfully use or possess firearms.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow